



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

For Immediate Release:

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District Heights Man Pleads Guilty to Human Trafficking

With the conclusion of a plea hearing held Tuesday afternoon, both men arrested on human trafficking charges on October 5, 2016 have been convicted. Prince Q. Torres, 25, of the 7200 block of Donnell Place, District Heights, pleaded guilty to two counts of human trafficking before Howard County Circuit Court Judge William V. Tucker. Torres was sentenced to 10 years with an active period of incarceration of four-years. He will be placed on five years of supervised probation following his release from prison. Both men were convicted without the cooperation or testimony of their victims, the two women who engaged in prostitution.

Torres's co-defendant in the human trafficking scheme, Anthony Kenneth Wilson, 39, of the 13000 block of Blairmore Street in Baltimore, pleaded guilty to a single count of conspiracy to aid and abet human trafficking in March and was sentenced to 164 days.

Last fall, Howard County police received a tip about possible human trafficking at the Red Roof Inn, located at 8000 Washington Boulevard in Jessup. Detectives responded and located two women they recognized from prostitution ads on the website Backpage. The two women, ages 28 and 29, were going in and out of a hotel room, along with Torres and Wilson. Investigators learned that Torres was posting the ads on Backpage and was garnering money paid to the women by their clients. Police arrested the two men and offered the women assistance in finding services. The women declined any assistance.

Howard County has an ongoing effort to combat prostitution, human trafficking and related offenses, including a team of police and prosecutors focused on arresting and prosecuting traffickers and offering assistance to victims through housing, treatment, transportation and other help.

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